

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. XIII, No. 2, February, 1915

From Some Editorial Notes:

Warning! New Law; Heavy Penalties!—The Harrison Bill regulating the sale of habit-forming drugs was passed by the last Congress and becomes a law of the United States on March 1, 1915. This is a Federal law and affects every person in the United States who has occasion to buy, sell, dispense, give away, use or have in his possession any of the habit-forming derivatives of opium or cocoa. Every physician in practice makes use of such drugs more or less often; after March 1 he cannot do so lawfully unless he has taken out the Government license to be had by application to the Collector of Internal Revenue of the district in which he lives. The penalties for violation of this law are heavy fine or imprisonment or both. And the law applies to you; to every physician in the United States; do not forget that! Do not think there is any way of avoiding it or that it does not apply to you personally. You must comply with it or get into trouble. The license fee is small—only \$1 per year—but it must be taken out each year and the fact that you hold a license must be of record in the Collector's office.

Why were we not advised of this before? The good Lord, in His inscrutable wisdom, only knows the vagaries and stupidities of some of our high-priced Federal department chiefs. Doubtless some fathead chief in some office having the administration of this law in charge, assumed that all physicians, pharmacists, dentists, etc., were natural-born mindreaders. When the mails are to be weighed for fixing railroad mail contracts, tons of seeds, agricultural reports, etc., are sent free of postage. When something important like this comes along, our poor, starving Government cannot afford to send a circular letter of information to the professional gentlemen most interested. . . .

Be on the safe side; take out your license before March 1.

Apply to Collector of Internal Revenue—district in which you live.

Dues! Dues! Dues!—Be sure to pay your dues to your county medical society before March 1. It is a very important matter and no longer a mere trivial detail. To administer the business attached to the legal department of the State Society and to safeguard the rights of over 2,500 individual physicians who are members, is no small thing and it must be done on a business basis. . . .

The \$6 assessment is a very small matter in comparison with the hundreds, and in some cases thousands of dollars which it costs to defend a suit for alleged malpractice. And you never can tell whether or when you will be sued. In nearly every case of such suit, the doctor writes or says: "I had no idea of this! I never was sued before!" There always has to be a first time for anything and you never can tell whether the lightning will strike you next, or someone else. If your dues are paid to your county secretary before March 1, and you have a receipt or a cancelled check to show for it, you need not worry about the rest; you will be protected. But remember, in all fracture cases, take an x-ray plate of the broken bone or bones and keep the plate; do not give it to the patient to keep as a souvenir! Be sure your dues are paid!

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.

Secretary-Treasurer

News

"Persons suing public employees for injuries caused by negligence, must file a claim with the employee and his employer within ninety days after injury, according to an important decision yesterday by Superior Judge Clarence M. Hanson in upholding the constitutionality of a state law. Decision was in a suit by Jene Jackman against Dr. Joseph H. Patterson and Dr. J. Burbridge, employees at the County Hospital. (Case No. 441431.) In this case because the County Hospital is operated in a governmental capacity the plaintiff could not sue the county but brought his action against the two physicians, alleging that he was injured in the hospital as the result of negligence on their part. He did not file his claim within ninety days as required by the 1933 General Laws. . . . Act 5150 requires persons suing a public employee to file their claim with such employee as well as his employer within ninety days of injury. The plaintiff failed to file such a claim here and asserted it was not necessary because the law was not valid. Judge Hanson's decision is expected to affect thousands of public employees." (Los Angeles Journal, December 16, 1939.)

"The Federal Trade Commission announced today it has issued a complaint against certain advertising representations by an Oakland, California, firm dealing in Chinese herbs. The complaint is directed against members of the partnership trading as Fong Wan. It asserts the herbs are 'not a remedy or cure for any of the ailments or diseases' named by the firm in newspaper and periodical advertising and a booklet designated Herb Lore. The complaint also contends the herbs do not and cannot 'wash away any diseases from the human body,' that Partner Fong Poy, also known as Fong Wan, cannot diagnose or heal diseases or ailments and has not restored anyone's health by the use of Chinese herbs. Among the ailments for which the department said the advertising set forth the herbs as a remedy are heart trouble, high blood pressure, colds, influenza, asthma, pyorrhea, cross eyes, cancer, goiter, liver and gall-bladder trouble, diabetes, nervous attacks, arthritis, obesity and headaches." (Sacramento Bee, December 15, 1939.) (Previous entries, June and July, 1926; January, 1928; August, 1931; April, 1932.)

"The Mexican Government today was reported to be contemplating measures that would restrict activities of two powerful border radio stations—those operated by Dr. (J.) R. Brinkley and Norman T. Baker. Official circles here said Brinkley's station in Villa Acuna—one of the strongest in the world with 180,000 watts power—and Baker's 50,000-watt station in Nuevo Laredo, had interfered for several years with American broadcasts originating in Texas, the Middle West and even states on the Canadian border. The Mexican action would be based on the recently ratified North American regional broadcasting treaty. The treaty was designed to end international radio interference by allocating specific wave bands to each nation for the exclusive use of stations in that country. With a restricted number of wave lengths—instead of the whole broadcasting range as formerly—shortly to be divided among Mexico's extensive radio industry, sources

(Continued in Front Advertising Section, Page 28)

† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.

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HOSPITAL
ACCIDENT
SICKNESS

INSURANCE



For ethical practitioners exclusively

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Liberal Hospital Expense Coverage for \$10.00 per Year

\$5,000.00 ACCIDENTAL DEATH	For
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\$10,000.00 ACCIDENTAL DEATH	For
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38 years under the same management

\$1,850,000 INVESTED ASSETS

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Disability need not be incurred in line of duty—benefits from the beginning day of disability.

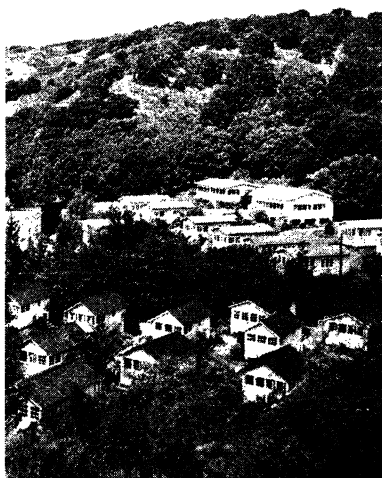
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BOOK REVIEWS

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A Textbook of Occupational Diseases of the Skin. By Louis Schwartz, M. D., Medical Director, United States Public Health Service, in charge of Dermatoses Investigations, Washington, D. C.; Lecturer, Department of Dermatology and Syphilology, New York University, College of Medicine; Fellow, American Public Health Association; Chairman, Committee on Skin Irritants, American Public Health Association, and Louis Tullipan, M. D., Clinical Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology, New York University, College of Medicine, New York City; Consulting Dermatologist, Manhattan General Hospital; Associate Visiting Dermatologist and Syphilologist to Bellevue Hospital; Diplomate of American Board of Dermatology and Syphilology; Fellow, American Academy of Dermatology and Syphilology. Cloth. Pp. 799, illustrated with 116 photographs. Price, \$10. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1939.

The authors point out the importance of skin diseases in occupational morbidity, and state that they comprise 69 per cent of all occupational diseases in the United States (1936-38). The ever increasing proportion of compensable disability due to cutaneous eruptions is attributed to new chemicals and new processes used in industry.

A brief but pertinent chapter discusses the compensability of occupational dermatoses under the Workmen's Compensation Law, and gives an outline of the present legal status in the different states of the Union.

In discussing causes of occupational dermatoses, the authors relegate allergy, in its restricted sense, to a very minor rôle. They differentiate between allergy, specific hypersensitivity and the reaction to the patch test; but such differentiation is not clearly defined.

The patch test itself is adequately dealt with and there is appended a particularly useful list of substances used in patch-testing with their optimum concentrations and the time each requires for a positive reaction.

The major portion of the book is devoted to a systematic and detailed enumeration of important American industries and occupations, and the dermatologic hazards of each. Special emphasis is placed on specific chemicals employed and their relative tendency to produce dermatoses. With

each industry pertinent suggestions are given as to prevention of dermatitis.

The book is a highly commendable work. As a source of detailed knowledge it admirably fills a need in industrial medicine.—Philip K. Allen.

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(Continued from Text Page 102)

Mr. Kaufman.—Our chief counsel, Mr. Walter W. Kaufman, has turned in a very exhaustive report of the last year's work in our Medical Defense. It is too comprehensive to publish in full but a digest of it, and of Mr. Morrow's report, will appear later. In the meantime, it is a pleasure to record the fact that Mr. Kaufman has so carefully and so successfully guided our legal work and to thank him for his untiring efforts.

Medical Defense Results.—In the annual report of our attorney for Southern California, Mr. H. T. Morrow, who has handled our work from the first with remarkable sagacity and ability, and to whom we are glad thus publicly to extend our thanks, there are one or two paragraphs of general interest.

"The Society has been especially fortunate this year in having several cases which would have been expensive to try, disposed of without trial. While the trial work this year has been extremely light, I anticipate that next year will not show any extraordinary increase in suits filed or cases tried. The advice which has been given by the Secretary of the State Medical Society from time to time with regard to the advisability of taking x-rays in all fracture cases, and elsewhere when necessary, has directly resulted in a large saving to the Society, for I have found in several cases under investigation this year, that the fact that the

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AND SAMPLE
ON REQUEST

member in question had expressly adopted the suggestion of the Society and had excellent x-ray plates, resulted in certain malpractice matters in question being dropped without suit."

✓ ✓ ✓

Membership vs. License to Practice.—More and more it is becoming evident that membership in our county units, and therefore, membership in the State Society and the American Medical Association which are included with membership in a county unit, must take the place, to a large extent, of the state license to practice medicine and surgery. In the eyes of the ordinary man in the street, one license looks just like another and a license to practice naturopathy or chiropractic or osteopathy seems no different, to him, than a license to practice medicine; the holders of all are alike treating sick people. . . .

✓ ✓ ✓

Smooth Swindler; Look Out for Him.—There is a young man, described as about 21 years old, 6 feet tall, weighing about 180 pounds, black hair, very dark, large eyes, rather pale, deep falsetto voice, three upper teeth missing (which may have been fixed), who is operating in California taking alleged subscriptions for *Current Opinion* and *The Literary Digest* and offering as a premium to doctors a medical book, and to lawyers a law book. The Periodical Publishers' Association have offered a reward for information that will lead to his arrest. . . .

From an Original Article on "The Skin Test in Typhoid," by F. F. Gundrum, M. D., Sacramento.—Several communications have appeared during the past six years concerning a skin test for typhoid. Different observers have used
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CALSO is not a laxative and contains no sulphate.

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You, Doctor

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COMPLAINT: If you are not taking fullest advantage of the services of your Bureau, you are being unfair to yourself, and unless you "mend your ways" by demanding their help and cooperation in all matters of Credits and Collections, your own said conscience will render

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Garfield 0460
SAN FRANCISCO

Latham Square Building
OAKLAND

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different materials and different methods in making the test and a very considerable difference of opinion exists as regard its usefulness. . . .

In order to compare the skin reaction with the Widal test for agglutinins, all patients suffering from typhoid admitted to the Sacramento County Hospital during the past summer received a skin test at the same time the blood for Widal test was made. . . .

From an Original Article on "The Inflamed Eye—Some Comments on Its Diagnosis," by George H. Kress, M. D., Los Angeles.—The subject of the inflamed eye, and its diagnosis, is taken up before this society of general practitioners, not so much because it is possible to present much that is new or startling, as for the reason that the inflamed eye, as such, is often first seen by the general practitioner; and because the subsequent cosmetic and economic efficiency of both the eye and the individual can be said in certain of the graver of inflammatory conditions of the organ of vision, to depend largely upon what steps are taken in the way of treatment at the beginning of the trouble. . . .

From an Original Article on "Operative Procedures of Ocular Muscles in Heterophorias," by E. W. Alexander, M. D., San Francisco.—When is one justified in resorting to surgical methods of treatment in heterophoria and what surgical procedure should be used? I have not selected this subject with the expectation of presenting anything original, but in the hope of stimulating a discussion on a rational

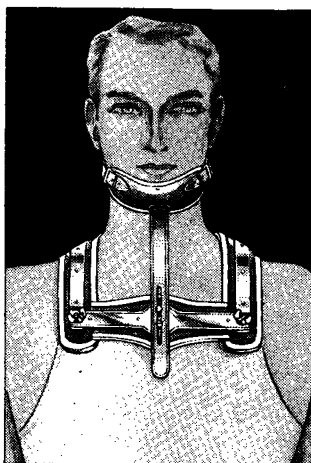
treatment of a decidedly distressing condition, which receives very scanty or disjointed consideration by many ophthalmologists. . . .

From an Original Article on "Conservative Management of the Handicapped Gynecological Patient (Anoci-Association)," by Thomas O. Burger, M. D., San Diego.—While woman is in many ways superior to man, in endurance, fortitude, and tenacity, yet we know that as a rule her nervous system is more sensitive, her susceptibility to nervous stimuli more acute, shock in her more easily produced and in many other ways she is less stable than man. . . .

From an Original Article on "Concerning the Etiology and Treatment of Superfluous Hair," by George D. Culver, M. D., San Francisco.—The question of superfluous hair is important, and there is more to it than eradication alone. Prevention should also be considered, and it is here that the physician with his knowledge of physiology and with the conditions under which hair is stimulated to grow, may give valuable advice that lifts him above being a mere technician. Definite directions may be given in that large class of cases in which constitutional disturbances tend to stimulate the growth of hair. . . .

From an Original Article on "Ureteral Defect Repaired With Loop of Intestine—Report of Case," by J. Henry Barbat, M. D., San Francisco.—Several papers have recently appeared describing new methods of repairing defects of the ureter, all of which appear to have merit, and should enable the operator to remedy these defects with

(Continued on Next Page)



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COLLAR**
Made of
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Designed to give maximum support and control with a minimum of bulk and weight. Places of contact are fully padded with soft wool felt. Collar can be reshaped by physician to fit the individual.

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(Continued from Preceding Page)

much more certainty than in the past. There are still many surgeons who prefer to do a nephrectomy than to attempt the repair of a resected ureter. . . .

From an Original Article on "Compound Fracture of Both Femurs With Extensive Laceration of Soft Parts," by T. W. Huntington, M. D., San Francisco, and Alvin Powell, M. D., Oakland.—This case seems to be worthy of a place in surgical literature, in that it illustrates several important points in the treatment of open fractures, and accentuates, very sharply, at least two or three serious hazards attending such injuries. . . .

From an Original Article on "The Advent of Chinese Doctors Into California," by J. F. Gibbon, M. D., San Francisco.—Some forty years ago two white men wanting to make money conceived the idea of employing a shrewd Chinaman (he subsequently proved shrewd all right!) to play doctor at a salary of \$100 per month. The Chinaman's name was Li Po Tai.

A store was rented on the corner of Washington Street and Washington Alley, opposite Brenham Place, opposite the northeast corner of the Plaza. The store was decorated with Chinese flags and mysterious hieroglyphics, etc. In the rear part of the store was a Chinaman cooking the herb tea. In the front part of the store was a large square table; on it was a fancy cushion and beside it sat the great Chinese Doctor Li Po Tai from China, who cures all diseases with herb tea only, consultation free, ready for

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business, his white employers working the town on the outside telling of the wonderful cures the great Chinese Doctor Li Po Tai was effecting with herb tea, "consultation free." . . .

From Report of the Secretary-Treasurer.—Mr. President and Members: As Secretary, I beg leave to submit the following report for 1914, that is, from December 8, 1913, to December 7, 1914:

The total number of members for whom we have paid assessments to the State Society is 597, as compared with 589 of last year.

It may be of interest as a matter of record to note the following:

In 1907 the membership was 498.
In 1908 the membership was 482.
In 1909 the membership was 482.
In 1910 the membership was 476.
In 1911 the membership was 548.
In 1912 the membership was 556.
In 1913 the membership was 589.
In 1914 the membership was 597.

It will be seen that our membership is very slowly increasing, in spite of our being obliged to continually weed out members who do not pay their dues.

In Los Angeles, however, there is a constant campaign for new members, this being carried on by the individual members of the Society, with a success that should put you all to shame. I would again urge renewed efforts along these lines. . . .

Respectfully submitted,

RENE BINE, *Secretary.*